Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 09144 171806Z

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ACTION OC-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, AFSP, ASEC

SUBJ: ACQUISITION US/MEXICO LEASED TELEPHONE LINE AND INSTALLATION $\ensuremath{\mathsf{C}}$

SECURE-VOICE SCRAMBLER

REF: MEXICO 3464

- 1. SEVERAL MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE I RECOMMENDED THE LEASING OF A DIRECT US/MEXICO TELEPHONE LINE AND THE INSTALLATION OF A SECURE VOICE FACILITY IN THE CHANCERY. DURING THIS PERIOD MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN GATHERING TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND IN ASSESSING THE MECHANICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STEPS NECESSARY TO BRING THIS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM INTO BEING. FOR THIS EFFORT I AM MOST GRATEFUL.
- 2. I AM CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT DESPITE OUR BEST JOINT EFFORTS THIS VERY MUCH NEEDED FACILITY IS NOT YET IN SIGHT. BELIEVING THE DEPARTMENT SHARES MY CONVICTION THAT SUCH A SYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL, I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE MATTER COULD BE PUSHED FORWARD WITH ALL POSSIBLE URGENCY.
- 3. THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING US/MEXICAN RELATIONSHIPS HAS CLEARLY INCREASED. AND, ABOUT THESE EVENTS THERE IS A NEW DIMENSION OF SENSITIVITY. THE IMPACE OF MEXICO'S ACTIVITIES IN WORLD AFFAIRS IS HAVING A GROWING EFFECT ON US NATIONAL INTERESTS. GIVEN THE TEMPO AND CHARACTER OF THESE HAPPENINGS, I BELIEVE THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR A VIRTUALLY INSTANTANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY TO INSURE RAPID TRANSFER OF INFORMATION AND ON-THE-SPOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 09144 171806Z

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS. ONLY THROUGH A SECURE-VOICE FACILITY

CAN SUCH EXCHANGES BE EFFECTIVELY CARRIED OUT IN EMERGENCY LIKE SITUATIONS. THEREFORE, I URGE THAT THE NEEDED REMAINING STES BE TAKEN TO MAKE THIS SECURE-VOICE INSTALLATION AN EARLY REALITY.

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